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LIBERTUS VAN BOKKELEN, D. D., LL. D.

THE ARGUS.

CATONSVILLE, MD.,

CATONSVILLE BIOGRAPHIES:

A SERIES OF PERSONAL SKETCHES

BY

GEORGE C. KEIDEL, PH. D.

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I. INTRODUCTION.

From a small beginning more than two centuries ago as a primitive settlement of backwoods planters, Catonsville has kept on growing as the years have passed in long array until it has become a populous suburb of one of the large cities of America.

The proximity of so important a business centre as the city of Baltimore has had the effect of giving to Catonsville a relatively large number of prominent men in all the walks of life, who have found its beautiful and healthful location on a great ridge of land overlooking the Patapsco River and Chesapeake Bay conducive to both peace of mind and body.

Some of its citizens reside permanently within its bounds and have their whole being in its village activities, while others find it a convenient abode whence they may daily issue forth to their bread-winning in the neighboring metropolis of Maryland. A third class of suburban dwellers come only during the warmer months of the year in order to escape from the weariness occasioned by scorching brick walls and sweltering humanity in the confines of a great city.

Each of these classes has contributed its quota of prominent personalities that have at one time or another graced Catonsville with their presence, but it is undoubtedly among the circle of permanent residents that we may most fittingly seek for those whose lives and interests have been most closely identified with the history of Catonsville in times past.

By way of illustration there may be mentioned the group of educators who have given to the village institutions of learning in which have been trained many of the men and women who later became beacon lights in the State and nation. St. Timothy's Hall and Overlea College both had their day of glory in the years gone by while Mount de Sales Academy still survives after more than half a century of usefulness.

The churches of the various denominations have in the main also had a long career in their mission of spiritual uplift, and many have been the ministers of the gospel who have won a firm place in the affections of their parishoners by their lovable and sterling qualities. A relatively large number of religious institutions form a species of holy circle about the village, and these are mostly near enough to the centre of population to ward off as it were evil influences of direful power without causing the worldlings to feel all too ill at ease in a saintly atmosphere.

The more material welfare of the inhabitants has been the concern of another group of men who have done much for the advancement of the community by their business enterprise in developing the natural advantages of the region. Roads have been opened in many directions, while horse-car lines, steam railroads and electric tramways have made communication easy with the neighboring city and the surrounding villages.

Edifices both public and private of many kinds have added their note of comfort and utility to the neighborhood, and especially note-worthy are the many elegant residences dotted over the country for miles around in all directions. The men who have builded these things of beauty deserve honorable consideration at the hands of their fellow-citizens, and their handiwork is much in evidence to whomsoever it may be that tarries in Catonsville be it for a longer or shorter period of time.

It would evidently be futile to hope for any complete treatment in a biographical way of so large a group of men worthy of notice, and indeed so many of them are still living that personal notices would hardly be in good taste in a series such as the one here projected. Suffice it, therefore, to include only a few of those who have long since gone to their reward above and whose beneficent activities are likely to be forgotten by the community in which they lived as the personal recollections of their contemporaries gradually become dimmed by the passing years.

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II. REV. L. VAN BOKKELEN, D. D., LL. D.

Most prominent among the educators of Catonsville in times past was undoubtedly the subject of the present sketch, whose life work has been thought worthy of an independent notice in the recently published *Cyclopedia of Education* (Vol. V, p. 705.)

By descent Libertus Van Bokkelen was both Dutch and Welsh, and he united in his person many of the sterling qualities of both races. A born orator of the mobile lip type, he was essentially a man of affairs of the religious and educational sort as is abundantly shown by his long career of ceaseless activity in many lines of endeavor.

He was born in New York City on July 22, 1815, the son of a merchant who dealt largely in Southern products, and one of a large family of children. While still quite young he removed with the family to Brooklyn, but when he had reached the age of nine he was sent to a boarding-school on Long Island and thus grew up in a school atmosphere. (See *The Biographical Cyclopedia of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, 1879, pp. 408-409.)

His education was completed in various other schools near New York, and he early became interested in a secondary school on Long Island in which he rose rapidly to a position of considerable influence.

In the years 1839, 1840 and 1841 he traveled extensively in Europe studying the various systems of instruction in use in France, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Bavaria, Switzerland, the German States, Holland, Belgium, England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. (See *The Maryland Educational Journal*, Vol. I (1867), pp. 230-231.)

After his return to America he completed his theological studies and took holy orders in the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1842.

In 1845 at the suggestion of Bishop Whittingham of Maryland he came to Catonsville and established a church military school known as St. Timothy's Hall. This was the first school of its kind in the United States, and it soon became widely known throughout the South. (See *The National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, Vol. III (1893) p. 213, cols. 1-2.)

Though beginning with nothing, this school in a few years achieved great success. Extensive buildings were erected accommodating no less than one hundred and fifty students, and the curriculum included physical culture in a gymnasium under skilled teachers. The pupils were organized as an infantry battalion and an artillery corps for which the State provided muskets, cannon and other equipments.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861 the institution was at the height of its prosperity, and plans had been made for extending the buildings. When the call to arms came most of the students left, taking with them the muskets and cannon which were soon put to the stern uses of real war.

The main buildings of St. Timothy's Hall were destroyed by fire in 1872, but the old armory is still standing as a memorial of the past.

While residing in Catonsville Dr. Van Bokkelen also filled the position of rector of St. Timothy's Church and had charge of Grace Church at Elk Ridge Landing and St. Peter's Church in Ellicott City. In the discharge of his varied ministerial duties he was assisted by the teachers in his school who had pursued clerical studies. His younger brother Rev. James Ellisden Van Bokkelen was his assistant at St. Timothy's Church at the time of his death on Nov. 17, 1850, at the age of twenty-five. He had previously had charge of the church at Elk Ridge Landing. (See *American Quarterly Church Review*, 1851, p. 639.)

In 1864 the number of pupils at St. Timothy's Hall had fallen off so considerably owing to the Southern patronage having been cut off by the war that Dr. Van Bokkelen decided, after having suffered great pecuniary loss, to give up the school and turn to other means of earning a livelihood. With this object in view he rented St. Timothy's Hall to Professor E. Parsons, who continued it under the old name with great success.

The assassination of President Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth, a former pupil at the school, turned the United States military authorities' attention to it, and General Lew Wallace upon assuming command of the department on April 19 immediately issued the following order respecting the uniform worn by the pupils of St. Timothy's Hall, (then known as the Catonsville Military Institute):

Headquarters Middle Division,

Eighth Army Corps,

Baltimore, April 19, 1865.

General Orders No. 86.

The gray uniform worn by certain young men, said to be students, has become so offensive to loyal soldiers and citizens that it is prohibited in this department.

This order will take effect from and after the 25th of the present month.

By command of

Maj.-Gen. Wallace.

George H. Hooker,
Asst.-Adjt. General.

In the report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the General Assembly of Maryland in 1865 the school is put down as having eight professors, one hundred and eighty students and property worth forty thousand dollars. (See p. 127.)

In 1850 Dr. Van Bokkelen was married to Miss Amelia D'Arcy, the youngest daughter of John N. D'Arcy, a merchant of Baltimore. Their early wedded life was spent either at St. Timothy's Hall or in the nearby rectory of St. Timothy's Church, and it was here that their six children were born: Amelia, who married William Thode; Benjamin Ogden, who married Miss Clara Conkey; Libertus Morris, who married Miss Helen M. Cushman; Bertha, who died as a child; Etta, who died unmarried at the age of twenty-seven, and Ross Campbell, who married a young lady from New York. (From a granddaughter, Mrs. Richard Johnston, Apr. 5, 1915.)

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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II. REV. L. VAN BOKKELEN, D. D., LL. D. (Con.)

Dr. Libertus Van Bokkelen occupies likewise a prominent place in the history of the public schools of Maryland, having been largely instrumental in establishing the whole educational system of the state.

As early as 1859 he was appointed a School Commissioner for the First District of Baltimore County and served in this capacity until 1865.

On Nov. 15, 1864, there appeared in a local paper the following paragraph:

"Superintendent of Public Education. —Gov. Bradford has commissioned Rev. L. Van Bokkelen, of Catonsville, Baltimore county, as Superintendent of Public Education for the State of Maryland. It would have been scarcely possible for the Governor to have selected within the limits of the State a gentleman better fitted for this important position, or one whose qualifications are more widely known and appreciated. With great experience in the education of youth, he combines all the practical business qualifications required for the successful establishment of the new system of public schools to be established under the new Constitution."

This official appointment, to which a salary of twenty-five hundred dollars per annum was attached, was the beginning of a period of intense activity which may well be considered the high-water mark in Dr. Van Bokkelen's career.

After visiting schools in the North to observe their educational methods, he elaborated a system of public instruction which was incorporated in a bill entitled "A Uniform System of Public Instruction for the State of Maryland."

1867. As the easiest way of ridding themselves of an obnoxious official the convention simply abolished the office which he held in spite of an eloquent protest on his part.

When it became evident that Dr. Van Bokkelen would be obliged to give up his position, Mr. William Henry Farquhar of Montgomery county offered the following resolution at a meeting on Dec. 5, 1867, of the Association of Public School Commissioners and it was unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

On Dec. 30, 1865, he made his first official report to Governor Bradford, in which he thus described some of his own activities:

"In accordance with the requirements of the law, I have, since April 1st, visited and delivered addresses in each county, except Calvert. I attended the State Convention of Teachers at Elmira, New York; and the National Convention of Teachers at Harrisburg, Pa. I have twice visited Philadelphia and New York on official business, have traveled in the discharge of these duties 4,275 miles, and delivered 75 addresses, chiefly explanatory of the School System." (See p. 3.)

On Jan. 24, 1866, the State Senate ordered two thousand copies to be printed, two hundred of which were to be in the German language.

Dr. Van Bokkelen's administration of his high office was so successful that Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., in 1865 conferred on him the degree of LL. D., and during the four years of his incumbency very noteworthy progress was made in the public schools throughout the State.

But when the Civil War had come to a close and with it the military dictatorship in Maryland, the popular will once more asserted itself and a reactionary constitution was adopted in

"Resolved, That in closing the present and perhaps the final session of the Association of School Commissioners of the State of Maryland we feel it our duty to express in the most unqualified terms our high estimate of the services of the State Superintendent in the great work committed to our charge. We regard the successful operation and the beneficial results of the present admirable School System as owing in a great measure to his genius in organizing it, and to his zeal and devotion in carrying it on at great personal sacrifices, known to the members of this Association. Although in consequence of the inherent difficulties that beset the inception of every great enterprise, heightened by the peculiar political excitement of the times, the true character and value of his services may not yet be duly appreciated, it is our firm belief when these sources of misunderstanding shall have passed away, the name of the Rev. L. Van Bokkelen will be placed high as the highest on the list of the men identified in America with its greatest glory, —free popular education."

Dr. Van Bokkelen had likewise a career in the National Teachers' Association; in 1866 he became a Director, in 1868 the Secretary, and in 1869 the President of the Association. In 1868 he took part in discussions on school funds, state normal schools, and textbooks; and in 1869 responded to the address of welcome at Trenton, N. J. This latter meeting took place on Aug. 18, 19 and 20, and was the largest convention of teachers ever held in the United States up to that time, as more than two thousand were in attendance. (See Proceedings of the National Teachers' Association, 1869, pp. 2-4, etc.)

During this period also he was an ardent supporter of the Maryland School Journal published at first in Hagerstown, 1864-1865; and revived later at Baltimore under the title Maryland Educational Journal, 1867-1868. These journals were the official organ of the Department of Public Instruction of the State of Maryland, but they led a precarious existence owing to the lack of adequate financial support and soon ceased publication.

Dr. Van Bokkelen's educational scheme was greatly altered from time to time in after years, but it is essentially still the basis of the public school system of Maryland. (See State of Maryland, Teachers' Year Book, Scholastic Year 1914-1915, p. 112.)

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

In the year 1871 Dr. Van Bokkelen left the state definitely, and accepted a pastoral charge at Mount Morris in Western New York becoming rector of St. John's Church, while at the same time he assumed the management of the Jane Grey Seminary for young ladies. (See Buffalo Express, Nov. 2, 1899, p. 6.)

Trinity Church in Buffalo called him to its rectorship in 1874, and by so doing inaugurated the final period of prosperity in the long and useful life of the subject of this sketch. In a history of this parish published in 1897 an extended account of his work here is given.

"He brought to his new work a shrewd business capacity, a fund of enthusiasm and energy, great tact in dealing with men, and an unusual ability in the pulpit. Add to this a sincere and heartfelt desire to promote the interests of the church and the great truths of the Christian religion, and we can see he was well fitted for the crisis in which he found himself placed."

The situation which he found in his new charge was one that called for a decided change, and he was the very man to bring it about. There were two sister congregations located in undesirable downtown districts, and he made it his especial business from the very start to bring about a consolidation of interests and to build a new and handsome church in the residential section of the rapidly growing city.

After ten years of ceaseless effort he was able to bring about a union of the two parishes, and after two more years of planning to complete a worthy house of worship in a fine new location.

When the new plan was first submitted by the respective rectors "a long and somewhat animated discussion ensued, in which the various newspapers of the city took such an active part that what at first was a matter of parish concern rapidly enlarged into what seemed to be of vital interest to the municipality."

The smaller sister church was naturally opposed to the consolidation, but when finally the influence of the Bishop was thrown into the scale the opposition melted away, and on June 14, 1884, Judge Lewis granted a decree of consolidation between the two parishes, and the smaller of the original edifices was thenceforth known as Christ Chapel. The other building was sold and the new edifice was occupied for the first time on Easter Sunday, 1886.

Dr. Van Bokkelen at this time resigned his rectorship because of the increasing weight of years, and bade his congregation an affectionate farewell. Being now once more free to go whithersoever he might desire he made a tour of Europe, and later on another of the West and of Alaska. But the angel of death was at hand!

On Oct. 31, 1889, he consulted his physician in regard to an attack of dyspepsia, but he was not thought then to be in a serious condition. The next morning, Nov. 1, he was found to have passed away silently during the late hours of the night from heart failure.

His funeral was held on Nov. 4, 1889, in the Church of the Ascension in Buffalo, with Bishop Coxe officiating. Twenty surpliced clergy took part in the procession that entered the church, which was filled with an audience among whom were many of the leading men of Buffalo. A large number of relatives and friends followed the casket, among them being the Rev. L. M. Van Bokkelen of New York, B. C. and R. C. Van Bokkelen of Chicago, Mrs. William Thode of Baltimore, the Hon. J. J. H. Van Bokkelen of Port Townsend, N. Y., and W. K. and S. D. C. Van Bokkelen of Brooklyn. Bishop Coxe spoke briefly but eloquently upon the life and services of the departed clergyman, and dwelt upon some of the features of the great movements in which Dr. Van Bokkelen had been a leader as explaining some points in his character.

The remains were taken to Chicago for burial, a large number of the members of the family accompanying them.

A local newspaper gave the following estimate of his character and services to his fellowmen:

"Dr. Van Bokkelen was indeed a remarkable man. He was a scholar who had become an authority on educational questions, a patriot and a philanthropist who dared to be an Abolitionist in a Southern community, an able business man, and, withal, a devout and earnest pastor. To few men has it been granted to do so much good in a lifetime, and none can leave a fairer fame as a legacy to their loved children." (See Buffalo Express, Nov. 2, 1889, p. 4.)

Dr. Van Bokkelen's death was chronicled all over the country, and long obituary notices were published in many of the daily papers, especially those of Buffalo, Baltimore and New York. His memory will long be revered both North and South as that of an earnest, forceful man who left his imprint on public affairs wherever he happened to go in the course of his long life.

Though the bitterness of the sectional feeling occasioned by the Civil War has served to mar much of the sentiment once felt for him south of Mason and Dixon's Line, yet many Southern men had good cause to revere his memory as that of a great educator who had guided their footsteps at the formative period of their lives, and the one-time pupils of St. Timothy's Hall moistened many a battlefield in Virginia and Maryland with their lifeblood during the four long years of war.

In any general estimate of Dr. Van Bokkelen's lifework and character it cannot be failed to mention his intense personality and great enthusiasm for any object upon which he had set his heart. A case in point is his attitude on Abolition, which was one of the ruling passions of his life. While still in his teens we find the following expression of his strong feelings set down in his private journal under date of May 17, 1835:

"I went to New York to the second anniversary meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society and heard the famous English abolitionist, George Thompson. My heart was gladdened and my mind excited. I became more and more interested in the holy cause. If I am spared my voice shall be raised for the slave even unto death. If all forsake me—father, mother, friends—I will not hesitate to plead for those who are in bonds. I pledge myself to the Gospel and to this cause. I believe I will live to see slavery abolished. My motto is, Onward. I will go in spite of the devil and all his hosts opposing. With God for my strength what need I fear!"

And indeed many years later he was able to say: "The incidents of my life, upon which I look back with sincerest satisfaction, are those which in early youth connected me with the anti-slavery cause. While in Flushing I labored for the negro race by conducting a night school and a Sunday school for colored adults and children in which I was assisted by members of the Society of Friends. At the close of the war I was an adviser of the emancipated slaves, helping them to build a school and church at Catonsville, and form habits of industry and frugality. In these efforts as in others, I had helpers and hinderers; but holding to what was right before God and men of good will, I have never failed."

During the course of his long career as educator and minister of the gospel Dr. Van Bokkelen must have made hundreds of addresses and delivered thousands of sermons, for there is every indication that he was a forceful and fluent speaker who was always ready to express his views before an audience.

Most of these have gone unrecorded as he never seems to have published his speeches, but the titles of a few of them have been preserved and selections from them were occasionally given to the public at a later time.

On June 22, 1865, he delivered an address on Higher Female Education at the annual commencement of the Baltimore Female College.

Again on July 10, 1867, he made an address entitled On the Development of the Perceptive Faculties before the Second Annual Convention of the Teachers Association of the State of Maryland in session at Annapolis.

During his ministry at Buffalo the rector emeritus of Trinity Church, the Rev. Edward Ingersoll, died on Feb. 6, 1882. The following Sunday, Feb. 10, Dr. Van Bokkelen in the course of his sermon spoke thus feelingly of him:

"The dear and Christian man whom we buried ran well his race, and now the prize is his. His works do follow him. Thoughts of these works are today in many minds. There are sweet memories of his words, fragrant recollections of his deeds. Could we hold converse with him this the first Lord's Day in the palace of King, he would tell us of the rapture his completed work brings to his sanctified spirit, and how it yearns to have the work finished which was left incomplete. He reviews his thirty years of labor in this church. He sees those whom he received into covenant with Christ by holy baptism, the goodly company which he marshaled for the laying on of apostolic hands, the great army which he admitted to holy communion, and for whom he broke the bread of life. He counts them as a shepherd numbers his flock that he may know whether they are still safe in the fold. He thinks of those to whom he called, 'Turn ye; why will ye die?' but they gave no heed—men and women with whom he pleaded with earnestness, eloquence, and pathos, 'Be ye reconciled to God!' What think you his earnest desire now is? It is that you join hands with Jesus. Requiescat in Pace." (Quoted by Mary E. Mixer, History of Trinity Church, Buffalo, 1897, pp. 49-50.)

The farewell words of Dr. Van Bokkelen to his congregation were preached in Trinity Chapel, Easter even, 1886, from the comforting words of the Savior according to Saint John, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." The opening sentences of the sermon were an exposition of the text as suitable to the solemn incidents of the Savior's bitter passion and precious death. The concluding part directed the attention of the congregation to the three crosses which were erected on Calvary more than eighteen centuries ago, and concluded with an earnest appeal to his parishioners to choose the right way and accept salvation, that life might be happy, death glorious and eternity a season of everlasting joyfulness.

A few words of farewell to his congregation, and his ministry was over.

In his many notable sermons, in his public addresses connected with various questions of the day, in his intercourse with his brethren of the clergy, Doctor Van Bokkelen always won golden opinions. Liberal in his views, generous in his impulses, in sympathy with all efforts to improve and benefit humanity, he laid down his work with honor to himself and the respect of the whole community.

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III. REV. GEO. W. EBELING, PH. D.,

Another well-known educator of Catonsville, who in a sense succeeded Dr. Van Bokkelen in this field, was Dr. George W. Ebeling, Ph. D., of Overlea College. His career as a teacher extended over nearly half a century, beginning as it did in Germany and ending in America.

Georg Friedrich Wilhelm Ebeling, the subject of the present sketch, was born at Alt Wallmoden near Hildesheim in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, on December 13, 1821, the year that Napoleon died. His family had been the hereditary owners of a small landed estate, which had been confiscated from them shortly before under the Napoleonic regime in Germany.

At the time of his son's birth the father was pastor of the Lutheran Church at Alt Wallmoden, a small village near the confines of the Hartz Mountains, and many years later a younger son, Dr. Martin Ebeling, held the same charge.

A few years after his son Wilhelm was born the father was advanced to the position of Lutheran Superintendent with headquarters at the nearby village of Salzgitter. Thither the Ebeling family removed, and to this day some of their descendants continue to reside there. The father and mother are buried side by side near the vestibule of the old Lutheran Church at Salzgitter, and in recent years their graves have been visited by various members of the family from America.

As a boy Wilhelm, as he was usually called by those who knew him intimately, attended schools at Hildesheim and Braunschweig, and graduated in 1841 from a gymnasium at the latter place. Little of his life at this early period is now known to his descendants, but one can readily imagine that he was a diligent student of both the ancient and the modern languages, especially Latin for which he always manifested the greatest interest and which he was continually quoting in after years. It is probable that during this time he studied Greek, Latin, French, English and German; afterwards he added to these Hebrew and Spanish. Thus it will readily be seen that his range of vision in linguistic matters was quite extended, and that he was well qualified to be a teacher in this field.

In the autumn of 1841 he entered the University of Gottingen as a student of theology, living at first with a family named Tolle at 299 Rothestrasse, and later, after moving several times, with a Doctor Kirsten. The university he selected for the pursuit of his advanced studies was then at the height of its glory and influence as the favorite of the aristocracy of Germany, a position afterwards held by the University of Bonn. (See Personal-Bestand der

Georg-Augusts-Universitat zu Gottingen, 1841-1845.)

At the University young Ebeling seems to have devoted his attention largely to the study of philosophy in addition to the usual theological subjects, and to have become familiar with the teachings of Cicero, Kant and Schleiermacher more especially. Instead of migrating from university to university, as is the custom with German students, the young candidate of theology chose to remain at Gottingen to the end of his course of four years.

The expenses of these years were, however, too great for his slender purse, and in the summer of 1845 he was obliged to leave the university without attaining the degree for which he was striving; and it was only at a later time that his ambition in this direction was gratified.

Various anecdotes of his university life used to be related by him many years later: How on one occasion he sat up all night and studied just to prove to himself that he could do it; and how on another with youthful folly he procured a pipe with a stem so long that the servant girl lighted it from the ground while he sat at a second-story window and smoked it.

Five years later, in 1850, he finally received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Gottingen upon the submission of a Latin dissertation on The Conscience as the Image of God. It was this degree which gave him the familiar title of Dr. Ebeling, as he never received any of the complimentary degrees so common in America.

The central idea of the dissertation just mentioned was that there exists an inborn feeling in every one which intuitively judges between right and wrong; this feeling we call the Human Conscience, and the only rational way of accounting for its existence is to assume it is the divine spark implanted at birth in the soul of every human being.

From the above brief outline it will be seen that Dr. Ebeling continued his studies at school and university uninterruptedly from childhood until he had reached the age of twenty-three; and we can well imagine that in his father's home throughout this period there prevailed a decided literary atmosphere, for was not his father a Lutheran bishop and did not his younger brother Martin also become a student in theology at Gottingen.

The effects of his youthful surroundings and scholarly training were apparent to the end of his long life, even after Dr. Ebeling had cut loose from his intellectual moorings in Germany and emigrated to far-off America at a time when universities were unknown on this side of the Atlantic.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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III. REV. GEO. W. EBELING, PH. D., (Con.)

Upon leaving the University of Göttingen he followed the course usually pursued by young theologians of his day and became a private tutor in the family of a nobleman. Through the influence of a relative he received an appointment in the family of Herr von Reden, who resided on his ancestral estate at Wendlinghausen in the province of Lippe.

Here he remained six years (1845-1851) tutoring the two eldest sons Jobst and Paul von Reden. (See *Gothaisches Genealogisches Taschenbuch*, 1915, p. 644.) As an educated gentleman he was here received as a member of the nobleman's family, and consequently moved more or less in aristocratic circles. His magnificent bass voice, and his skilful playing of the violoncello, no doubt served him well during these years of cultured ease. While here he also had time to pursue his theological and linguistic studies, write his doctor's dissertation, and receive his university degree.

From 1851 to 1853 Dr. Ebeling taught in a boy's school at Braunschweig, and thus became used to handling a class of boys for the first time in his career.

Whether he would have continued in this profession indefinitely, or whether he would later have received a pastoral charge, must remain problematical, for an event occurred about this time which changed the whole course of his life.

It so happened that there was living at Salzgitter about the middle of the century a government physician Dr. Georg Keidel, who had an only daughter Marie, then in her early twenties, who was keeping house for her widowed father and her six younger brothers.

During his visits home Dr. Ebeling made the acquaintance of Fraulein Keidel, promptly fell in love with her, and soon became engaged to be married in the formal German way. But the young folks' dreams of happiness were destined soon to be rudely shocked.

Early in the year 1853 Dr. Keidel announced his intention of emigrating with his whole family to far-off America, and a rending of family ties in some sort was inevitable.

After much discussion it was decided that Dr. Ebeling should be ordained in Hanover as a Lutheran minister, that he and Fraulein Keidel should be married at once, and that then he would cut loose from his own family in Germany, and accompany his bride's family to the New World.

Accordingly the young couple were married on April 28, 1853, and about a

week later set sail for America from Bremerhaven on the ship *Admiral* in command of Captain Carl Wieting. This vessel is officially reported by the United States custom authorities to have been of six hundred and sixty-four tons burden and to have carried thirty-one cabin passengers and two hundred and sixty-eight steerage passengers—a mere pigmy in comparison with the giant German ocean steamers of the twentieth century. (See letter from Collector of Customs at Baltimore, Mar. 30, 1915.)

The voyage was long and trying, and the young theologian suffered so greatly from seasickness that from that time until his death nearly fifty years later he refused to again venture upon the ocean depths.

The *Baltimore Sun*, June 23, 1853, contained the following brief paragraph:

"More Emigrants.—The Bremen ship *Admiral*, Capt. Wieting, yesterday arrived at this port in 41 days from Liverpool, via Bremen, having 300 passengers in the steerage, and 3,000 bushels salt. Consigned to Schaefer & Kohler."

This notice is evidently incorrect in several particulars, as the voyage for instance took seven weeks even from Bremen, May 4—June 22.

The young couple arrived in Baltimore with a piano, a violoncello, and some household effects; but they had very little money left after paying for their long journey from home.

Before leaving Germany Dr. Ebeling had chanced to hear that the German Consul from Baltimore, Mr. F. L. Brands, was spending some time in Germany, and he therefore called on him to make some inquiries about America.

The consul thereupon gave him a letter of introduction to his pastor, the well-known Lutheran divine Rev. John G. Morris. Soon after arriving in Baltimore Dr. Ebeling presented this letter, stating that it was their intention to continue their journey westward and settle in Missouri. But the pastor of the First Lutheran Church spoke earnestly to him of the advantages of Baltimore as a place of residence, and finally succeeded in persuading Dr. Ebeling as well as the whole Keidel family to remain in Maryland.

Thus the new arrivals became members of the large German colony living at that time on the banks of the Patapsco, an event which proved decisive in its influence on the subsequent history of the whole family group.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

III. REV. GEO. W. EBELING, PH. D., (Con.)

As soon as Dr. and Mrs. Ebeling had settled themselves in a Baltimore home the question of earning a livelihood became a pressing one, and so to make some sort of a beginning a sign was placed on the house announcing that Dr. Ebeling was prepared to teach the Ancient and Modern Languages, etc. At the very bottom there was added: Vocal and Instrumental Music; and to his great astonishment the first pupil that applied desired piano lessons. So he at once set himself diligently to work to improve the slight knowledge of this art which he happened to have previously acquired.

While Dr. Ebeling thus practised his bride sat by his side and read aloud to him to wile away the time. By the use of a dumb piano this method of work became feasible, and the importance of music teaching in America as a means of gaining a living added the needed incentive. This diligence established the habit of practising exercises, and he soon developed an unusual pliability in the use of his fingers, while at the same time acquiring a very delicate touch. (See letter from Herman L. Ebeling, June 29, 1915.)

Soon after settling in Baltimore Dr. Ebeling secured a position as organist in an Episcopal church through the influence of Mr. Samuel Davis, who was obliged to give him a signal whenever he was to begin or stop playing. This adventure led eventually to his forming the acquaintance of Miss Fredericka Karthaus, who afterwards became Dr. Keidel's second wife.

Towards the end of the following year Dr. Ebeling heard that there was a vacancy in a small German church which had been organized about five years before by a group of Germans living in Catonsville and the surrounding country. Accordingly on December 26, 1854 (Second Christmas Day) he drove out to the country and preached to the new congregation. The result was that he soon after became the pastor of Salem Church, succeeding the late Rev. Mr. Brockmann.

This event was the determining factor for the remaining forty-six years of his life, and ended furthermore by drawing all of his wife's family to Catonsville as well.

Being an ordained minister he deemed it his duty to exercise his holy calling, and so accepted this charge rather from a sense of duty than because of any pecuniary reward. For the congregation was few in numbers and poor of purse, the salary of the minister being only one hundred dollars a year.

His congregation he found in a state of disorganization, with one faction of seventeen members threatening to withdraw. Feeling was so tense that

the former minister had deemed it necessary one night to fire off his pistol from the church parsonage to let people know he was armed. Dr. Ebeling, however, by the use of great tact in his dealings with the parishioners succeeded in overcoming the dissension, and in consequence the congregation soon began to grow and to share in the general prosperity which came to the whole countryside just prior to the Civil War.

In the spring of 1855 Dr. Ebeling accordingly moved from the city to Catonsville, living at first in the small parsonage by the side of the church with his wife and young son William, who had been born the previous summer in Baltimore. His first home in Catonsville, therefore, was a frame dwelling of four rooms which is still standing, and which for many years afterwards was the residence of the teacher in charge of the German church school adjoining.

Owing to his small salary as minister Dr. Ebeling was obliged to rely chiefly on the revenue derived from giving private lessons and from teaching in various schools in order to support his family. As his pupils were widely scattered in the early years of his residence in Catonsville it was necessary for him to keep a team and drive from place to place.

Some of his pupils lived in Baltimore, some in Wetheredsville and elsewhere in the country. It was while on a trip to the latter place to give a music lesson that his horse ran away. Doctor Ebeling was thrown from his carriage and his collarbone broken. His lady pupils at Wetheredville later showed their appreciation of his services by presenting the young couple with some silverware.

During these years he also taught in the Phelps School at Ellicott City, later known as the Patapsco Institute; and on one occasion he walked from Catonsville to Ellicott City, gave his lessons, and then walked back again to his home on Ingleside avenue. At this time Dr. Ebeling was in his thirties and enjoying all the vigor of young manhood in spite of a slight affection of the heart which he had had all his life and which in the end was the cause of his death.

As a child in Germany he had been so puny and delicate that his parents had feared lest they would be unable to raise him. But as he grew older he grew stronger, and ended by enjoying really good health throughout his long life. It seems probable that the fact of his living in the healthful surroundings of the country for so many years had much to do with his general physical welfare and survival to extreme old age.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

CATONSVILLE BIOGRAPHIES:

A SERIES OF PERSONAL SKETCHES

BY

GEORGE C. KEIDEL, PH. D.

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III. REV. GEO. W. EBELING, PH. D., (Con.)

While it is undoubtedly true that Dr. Ebeling's lifework was in the main that of a teacher, yet he also had a career of nearly half a century as a minister of the gospel both in Catonsville and elsewhere in Maryland.

During the years 1855 and 1856 he assumed the pastoral duties of Jerusalem Church at Gardenville, Baltimore County, Md., and was wont to drive over from Catonsville at stated intervals to preach in German to the congregation. (See letter from Rev. P. C. Burgdorf, Ph. D., June 24, 1915.) But the trip over country road and city road and city street was an arduous one, and he soon felt himself obliged to give up this charge.

When a new church building was erected at Gardenville some twenty years later Dr. Ebeling took part in the dedication services on May 7, 1876, and made a short address in German. (See Baltimore Gazette, May 8, 1876, p. 4, col. 3.)

The German Lutheran congregation at Ellicott City, Howard county, Md., also received somewhat of his fostering pastoral care many years ago.

A third subsidiary charge held by Dr. Ebeling for many years was the German Lutheran church on the Old Court Road near the Liberty Pike and not far from Hebbville. Here for many years Dr. Ebeling was accustomed to hold religious services on Sunday afternoons after having taken the long drive over from Catonsville.

During the exciting times experienced in Maryland at the time of the Civil War Dr. Ebeling, though himself favoring the North, was careful to refrain from showing his feelings in his pulpit utterances and thus by tactful silences on his part the war cloud passed over his little flock without producing any great upheaval of feelings or financial catastrophe in the church.

About this time a number of German Lutheran congregations in Maryland, finding themselves out of harmony with the strong Northern feelings of their English brethren of the Maryland Synod, formed a new synod, and Dr. Ebeling and his congregation associated themselves with the new movement.

The official organ of this synod was a small church paper known as the Deutscher Hausfreund, and for some years in the seventies Dr. Ebeling acted as the managing editor of this literary venture. The press-work was done in Baltimore, but the copies were distributed to the subscribers from the editor's residence Overlea.

Dr. Ebeling's salary as pastor of the German Lutheran Church in Catonsville had been gradually advanced from one hundred to seven hundred dollars as the congregation had prospered. But financial reverses had come to him with advancing years and failing strength, and so in the early eighties he thought seriously of giving up his Catonsville home and accepting a charge in the city of Baltimore.

But his congregation were loath to give up their old pastor after so many years of faithful service, and so with the assistance of relatives and friends his salary was raised to a thousand dollars, at which figure it remained until his death many years later.

Soon another problem of grave importance arose in the management of the church: the older members who had been born in Germany kept dropping off one by one, few new recruits came to take their places, and the younger generations knew little if any German. And so by degrees the English language made greater and greater inroads on the foreign tongue.

The minor services of the church came gradually to be held in English, the movement away from the German of the Fatherland became more and more pronounced, until finally in the late nineties the plan of holding services alternately in German and English was adopted as a makeshift. (See George C. Keidel, A Typical Language Problem: Its Solution at Catonsville, Md., in Lutheran Observer, Feb. 4, 1898, p. 5, cols. 1-2.)

Soon after this language question had been temporarily settled the chief event in the history of Salem Church occurred, namely its Golden Jubilee, September 30, 1899. The official celebration was held on the nearest Sunday, October 1, 1899, and the church on the hill was filled to overflowing with friends both old and new.

An elaborate program was carried out in the presence of many visiting Lutheran clergymen, of prominent Germans from the neighborhood, and of more than a dozen of the original members of the congregation. The venerable pastor himself gave interesting personal reminiscences connected with the early history of the church, Rev. L. M. Zimmerman and Dr. Ph. Henninghausen followed with appropriate jubilee addresses, the choir rendered special music, and the exercises were concluded by an address on the financial history of the church by the secretary of the church council.

This important celebration in the history of the German Lutheran Church of Catonsville was widely reported in both the secular and religious press. The Catonsville Argus published a full-page history of the church, the Baltimore papers both English and German repeatedly devoted space to its many interesting features, and the Lutheran Observer published a long article with a picture of the old church and a portrait of its aged pastor.

The Protestant Germans of Catonsville and vicinity felt that by this notable celebration honor had been done where honor was due, and the venerable pastor of the flock looked back on the forty-five years of his ministry with the satisfied feeling that his work had been well done.

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III. REV. GEO. W. EBELING, PH. D., (Con.)

Soon after coming to Catonsville Dr. Ebeling acquired a great spirit of enterprise and undertook real estate and other operations whose daring was truly remarkable. It was this great activity of mind and body which quickly forced him into the public attention and won for him a noteworthy place in the history of the village.

On August 9, 1855, he purchased a tract of land from John Steele and wife (See Towson Land Records 12,360), giving a mortgage on it to the former owner (See Mortgage Records 6,493). This was the place on Ingleside avenue which was later the site of a butchering establishment for many years, and it was here that his second son Herman Louis was born in 1857.

A second piece of real estate was bought by Dr. Ebeling on May 21, 1856, from George F. Rentz and wife (See Land Records 15,262), a mortgage on it being given to Charles E. Philips, Trustee, (See Mortgage Records, 7,393).

On October 24, 1857, a third place was bought from Frederick Misel and wife (See Land Records 20,65). These three places all adjoined each other, and they were located on the East side of Ingleside avenue about one-half mile north of the Frederick Turnpike. Together they formed a considerable tract of land which later received the name of Overlea, and which afterwards underwent many changes both as to shape and size, but which still retains the old name.

About the year 1860 Dr. Ebeling conceived the ambitious scheme of starting a large boys' academy on his newly acquired property, and being advised by his friends that it was essential to the success of his project to erect an imposing structure, he proceeded to put up a large stone building resembling somewhat a castle on the Rhine. Being located on the top of a considerable ridge, and having a total height of fifty-six feet, Overlea dominates the landscape for a great distance in all directions, and formerly commanded a good view of Baltimore and the Chesapeake Bay.

As St. Timothy's Hall declined the new school flourished, and its rise to a position of importance in the local educational world was rapid after its opening in the fall of 1861. (See reports of Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C., issued annually.)

The easiest mode of approach to the school from the omnibus line on the Frederick Turnpike was over Dr. Van Bokkelen's extensive meadow (now East Catonsville); and hence the school-boys soon christened it Overlea, and by this name the school was known until it was closed some thirty-five years later. At first it was officially known as Overlea School, then as Overlea College, and finally as Overlea Home School. Dr. Ebeling retained the principalship of the school until 1892, when he turned it over to his eldest son.

Students came from far and near, Cuba being especially well represented for many years. Many well-known men of Catonsville and Baltimore received a part of their early training here, the most prominent alumnus thus far having been the late Isidor Rayner, United States Senator from Maryland.

But when the Civil War had come to a close, and the public schools of Maryland began to improve rapidly, a period of decline came over the old school in the late seventies and early eighties, the number of pupils at one time being reduced to eight. The general school situation at this time has been well expressed by a writer in the Maryland School Journal of 1879, p. 75:

"At the commencement of the public system, there was an abundance of private schools, seminaries and academies, many of them excellent in their way; and a well-to-do parent could send his child to a public or private school, as he pleased. But in course of time, the public schools advancing in efficiency, while the private schools remained stationery, parents who are both able and willing to pay for the tuition of their children, withdraw their sons from the private and send them to the public schools, not because the latter are cheaper, but because they are, on the whole, better. Thus private schools have been broken down all over the State of Maryland, and in many other states. No city in the Union had a larger list of good private schools than Baltimore, twenty years ago. A reference to the advertising columns of The Sun will show that we have not half as many today; and it is well known that but few of those in existence have any special merits. There are fathers and mothers who value social consideration higher than mere literary culture, and for them there will always be a private asylum, presided over by a lady of good family, but in reduced circumstances. But the private school, as an institution, is dead in Maryland. The public school has killed it; and the public school is now compelled to do both the work originally cut out for it, and the work done by the private school which it has superseded."

As an evidence of the wide range of linguistic studies pursued at Overlea the principal planned on one occasion a special commencement to which the pastors of the village churches were invited, whereupon the older students of the school declaimed selections in three several ancient languages and four modern languages.

In the late eighties and the early nineties a revival of prosperity came to Overlea Home School and once more the old mansion was filled with boarding pupils. But soon conditions changed again and the tide ebbed, until finally the school was permanently abandoned.

The memories of old Overlea will, however, last for many a year, and it may be well past the middle of the twentieth century before the last alumnus passes away.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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III. REV. GEO. W. EBELING, PH. D., (Con.)

In addition to his labors in school and church Dr. Ebeling took a great interest from time to time in various other matters of local concern.

At the time when he first came to Catonsville there existed a long and narrow lane which led southward from the Old Frederick road to a new settlement of German emigrants officially known in the land records as German-town. This lane had at that time no southern outlet, although it had been intended to extend it for a mile or more to the westward to intersect existing roads.

Dr. Ebeling soon took up this question and, abandoning the original project, opened a road from the end of the lane to Ingleside Avenue. This was called Stony Lane; but of late years it has been widened and rechristened as Harlem Avenue.

Another and more important road project in which Dr. Ebeling took an active part was the opening of Edmondson Avenue from the Old Frederick Road to Ingleside Avenue.

In 1876 a group of citizens living near the western limits of Baltimore City determined to open a new avenue from the old city boundary line to the Old Frederick Road. The new road was to be known as Edmondson Avenue because it was planned as an extension of the Baltimore street of that name.

When Dr. Ebeling and other extensive landowners living nearer Catonsville heard of this plan they immediately formed a subsidiary committee to continue the new road as far as Ingleside Avenue. After much discussion this project was carried through, but the opposition of several large landowners who objected to the new avenue being cut diagonally through their country places was so determined that eventually it was found necessary to adopt a zigzag course as a compromise. This peculiar location of the road is still apparent to every rider on the Ellicott City electric cars and has proved a great annoyance to the traveling public in general. But it was probably Dr. Ebeling's enthusiasm and persistence that made the new road possible at all.

Some time in the seventies Dr. Ebeling also, after much experience as a teacher, undertook to himself write an English grammar. Being a German, however, his thoughts naturally took form in his native language, and in that language he wrote down his proposed book. After this he himself translated it into English; but not altogether trusting his command of that to him foreign language, he took his completed manuscript to his neighbor and connection Mrs. Louis J. Keidel and asked her assistance in correcting his English style. This request was cheerfully complied with, and then the copy was given over into the hands of a Baltimore printer.

In the expectation of being able to introduce his textbook into the schools of the state and country Dr. Ebeling determined to secure legal protection for the new work. Accordingly on December 23, 1878, he addressed a letter from Catonsville to the Librarian of Congress at Washington, D. C., claiming copyright in the United States and reserving "all rights" connected with it, especially the "right of translation." (See original letter preserved in the Copyright Office.)

That copyright was duly secured is evidenced by the following entry on the official records (1878, No. 15635 L.):
Library of Congress, to wit:

Be it Remembered, That on the 31st day of December anno domini 1878, Rev. George W. Ebeling, of Catonsville, Md., has deposited in this office the title of a Book the title or description of which is in the following words, to wit: The Sentence and its parts. An analytical syntax for the use of advanced classes of schools, and for self-instruction By George W. Ebeling, Ph. D. All rights reserved. The right whereof he claims as author, in conformity with the laws of the United States respecting Copyrights.

A. R. Spofford,
Librarian of Congress.
2c. of the above publication deposited
February 17, 1879.

Soon after the publication of this English grammar the author endeavored to introduce it in the public schools of Baltimore and to make it generally known to the educational world. The Maryland School Journal of April, 1879, published a short notice of it which read thus:

"Original, philosophical and practical; we commend it to the attention of all who are engaged in giving language lessons."

The following quotation may serve to indicate the general character of the book (pp. 18-19):

We imagine seeing a man enter this world. By using the personal pronoun, he shows that he finds himself to be an individual, separate from the rest of the world. He gives names (nouns) to the things. His mathematical eye distinguishes matter which can only be measured, from those things which he counts. Of some of these only one specimen exists, the names of which he calls "proper nouns;" of other things there are many, and he calls their names: "common nouns."

At the end of his little book of some seventy pages he gives a few specimens of English composition, among which may be especially mentioned the last one entitled the Power of Music, a subject which always lay very near his heart.

But in the end the author's fond hopes of a wide circulation of his textbook were not realized, and he could only use it in his own school, which he did for some years. The greater portion of the some sixteen hundred copies was never disposed of, and his one published work has sunk into the oblivion of the things that have been.

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III. REV. GEO. W. EBELING, PH. D., (Con.)

As the weight of advancing years obliged Dr. Ebeling to gradually withdraw more and more from his public activities he devoted most of his time to the cultivation of his extensive vineyard at Overlea and to the society of the numerous friends that came to visit him. For many years he was accustomed to take an afternoon drive through Catonsville and around the neighborhood, being usually accompanied by his faithful wife who watched over him continually during his declining years.

Thus passed the evening of his long life!

A slight stroke of paralysis when he was about 75 years old brought with it a loss of physical power, and gradually his heart (which had never been strong) grew less and less able to meet the demands made upon it.

In the spring of 1901 he was obliged to give up his ministerial duties, and was thenceforth confined to his home. During the ensuing summer he failed from week to week and from day to day, until on September 25 the end came.

On the 27th the funeral took place in his old church in the presence of a large concourse of relatives, friends and parishioners. He was laid to rest by the side of the church in which he had preached for more than forty-six years, and a few years later his widow was laid by his side. The summit of the hill where he now lies commands a view of Overlea on the ridge opposite, where for forty years he lived his life of labor and love.

Thus far from his native land and own blood kindred he sleeps the sleep of the just after a long and useful earthly pilgrimage most of which was spent in the land of his adoption and in the village which he loved so well. (Compare also tribute in *Argus*, October 5, 1901.)

In any general retrospect of Dr. Ebeling's life there naturally come to mind certain characteristics which are deserving of mention.

His general lack of worldly wisdom, of which he himself was only too conscious, led him repeatedly to undertake ambitious schemes which he was wholly unable to carry out. One of these grandiose plans was the building of a large organ in the parlor of his home at Overlea, and in fact his house was planned chiefly with this end in view. Its main feature was a large concert hall with a stone arch at one end to hold the organ, while a water-tank in the tower was intended to supply the motive power for working the bellows.

The grounds about his home were also laid out on an elaborate scale after the German fashion with which he had become familiar in his younger days, while beautiful evergreens and Pawlonia trees soon added their distinctive charm.

At a later time he undertook to erect a conservatory for hothouse grapes, but this too was destined to prove a failure like many others which he attempted to put into execution after the true manner of a dreamer of dreams.

Another phase of his life in Catonsville likewise deserves mention, as one of his friends has recently remarked. The charm of his personality coupled with the attractive features of his home at Overlea made the latter a rendezvous for notable personalities of many sorts. It would indeed have been an interesting memorial if a record of their comings and goings had been kept.

Most of the leading amateur and professional musicians of Baltimore were at one time or another guest at Overlea. Clergymen from many parts of the world, literary and university men from far and wide came to visit him. Fond parents of the school boys, parishioners, relatives and friends flocked to his hospitable mansion, where open house was the usual order of the day.

Several artists of local fame in Maryland painted oil portraits of him, two of which for many years adorned his parlor at Overlea; and at the time of the church jubilee his benign old face became a familiar one to the readers of the church and secular papers.

His method of preparing his Sunday morning sermons may also be noted as characteristic. During the early part of the week his mind would dwell on some general subject, and then on Friday night he would take down his German Bible and read over the assigned passage for the following Sunday. Continuing his meditations on the chosen text from that time until the appointed hour he was able to deliver his sermon in his native tongue without the assistance of notes of any kind.

In 1897 a large local biographical work was published by a New York firm, and in this a personal sketch with estimate of his character and influence was given. (See *Genealogy and Biography of Leading Families of the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County, Maryland*, p. 224.)

Towards the end of his life his thoughts reverted frequently to his old home in Germany, the successes and failures of his long life passing before his mind's eye one after another, and the conviction becoming ever stronger with him that his life as the last champion of German Lutheranism in his adopted home was rapidly drawing to a close.

On October 13, 1901, a memorial service was held in the church, and with it the old German regime passed into history.

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IV. DR. ADALBERT J. VOLCK.

Among the artists who have lived in Catonsville at one time or another undoubtedly the most talented was the late Dr. Adalbert J. Volck, who for more than twenty years claimed the village as his home and for more than three score years was prominent in the art circles of Baltimore.

During the first half of the last century there resided in the ancient town of Augsburg, in Bavaria, Germany, a manufacturer of wealth, culture and of high personal standing and influence named Volck, a scion of the famous Strakonitch family.

To him were born two sons of decided artistic tendencies, one of whom, the young Adalbert Johann Volck, soon gave evidence of a more than common gift, which was destined to one day bear rich and abundant fruit in far-off America.

While the sons were still mere lads the family removed to Nuremberg, sacred in the world of art as the home of the immortal Albert Durer. Ludwig, one of the most liberal patrons art has ever known, was then reigning over Bavaria, his reason yet unimpaired, and under his fostering care genius in every form was finding its highest expression.

At Nuremberg were still assembled Pilatti, Caulbach, Cornelius and Swanthaler, and in this congenial atmosphere the young Adalbert found his artistic tastes rapidly unfold. All the time that could be spared from his studies at the local polytechnic school was spent in one or the other of the studios of these masters, who recognizing the lad's gift generously aided in its development.

Unfortunately for his future artistic career this favorable development was soon marred by an antagonistic influence which quickly ensnared the young student. From Nuremberg he migrated to the nearby art centre Munich, and here he fell in with members of the Burschenschaft, a society of insurgents whose membership extended throughout all the petty kingdoms now gathered into the great German Empire.

With youthful enthusiasm the lad threw himself heart and soul into the cause, which had for its object to circumvent the efforts of Bismarck toward the formation of the empire with Prussia as its cornerstone, and the granting of constitutional rights to all the separate states alike.

With the revolutionary army thus assembled young Volck, then but nineteen years of age, marched to Berlin and took part in the big battle which wrested from King Frederick of Prussia, great uncle of the present German Emperor, and his Iron Chancellor, the promise of the desired constitution.

But alas! as history tells, no sooner were the insurgents disbanded than the promise just given under great pressure was quietly revoked by those in power. King Ludwig, recalling his own subjects, punished them like naughty boys by giving them a chance to test their love of warfare by four years forced service in the Bavarian Army.

The high spirit of young Volck rebelled at this summary treatment, and he made a precipitate escape to the land of recognized freedom—America. It was in 1848 that he thus cut loose from his moorings in the Fatherland and entered upon a life of adventure in a strange land.

His first stopping place in this country was Boston, and it is easy to imagine him the typical descendant of his Teuton forefathers as pictured throughout the ages: a stalwart youth, fair-haired, fair-skinned and ble-eyed, with the simple manners and tender-heartedness of a child. He was, furthermore, both ignorant of the ways of the country and of its language, with few if any friends.

From a position of affluence, amid an environment of culture and refinement, he suddenly found himself reduced to the level of the hewers of wood and drawers of water for a bare subsistence. His father was unable to help him, as he himself was compelled to pay a heavy fine for the son's desertion, while any hint leading to the whereabouts of the latter being ascertained would have meant his eventual recapture and punishment.

Put against all obstacles the young exile retained his brave spirit undaunted, and evidenced the same intense enthusiasm for any noble cause which appealed strongly to his sympathies and ideal conception of life. In the new land of his choice he did whatever his hand—the strong, firm hand with its infinite variety of delicate cunning—found to do, and did it with all his might.

His subsequent long and often-times exciting career in America amply bears out the truth of this statement. It is therefore all the more to be deplored that his lack of worldly wisdom, coupled with his devotion to one losing cause after another throughout his life, continually kept his nose on the grindstone, as he was wont to express it himself.

As one of his daughters has lately put it, his splendid mind was so filled with the conception of his beautiful art works that he seemed to lose sight of the practical side of life. This was greatly regretted by him in his later years, when it seemed painful for him to speak of what he termed "the mistakes of his life." (Adapted from Baltimore American, June 20, 1909, and letter of Miss Fanny B. Volck, July 27, 1915.)

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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IV. DR. ADALBERT J. VOLCK. (Con.)

Adalbert J. Volck was born on April 14, 1828, and he was thus just at the threshold of manhood when he reached America about twenty years later.

After staying in Boston a short time he drifted west, and we next find him in St. Louis, where a brother-in-law had founded a Lutheran church.

But in 1849 the gold fever broke out in all its violence, and the young artist at once joined in the mad rush to California. This golden delusion soon evaporated, and the same year we find that he had drifted back all the way to Baltimore, where he was destined to spend the remainder of his four score years and three.

Here he shortly entered the office of Dr. Chapin A. Harris, who with Dr. Horace M. Hayden founded the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1851, the first of its kind in the world. Young Volck entered here as one of its first students and graduated with the class of 1852. In his last years Dr. Volck, as we may henceforth suitably call him, came to be its oldest living graduate. (See Fifty-second Annual Catalogue of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, Baltimore, Md., p. 11.)

Very early in his career as a dentist Dr. Volck began making trips to Somerset County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in order to practice his new profession. One of the oldest employees in the Library of Congress at Washington, Arthur Crisfield, once a soldier in the Confederate Army and later Assistant Register of Copyrights, vividly recalls that Dr. Volck filled some teeth for him on one of these trips prior to the year 1850, which fillings are still doing good service after a lapse of sixty-five years.

Among his early patients was a Miss Letitia Roberta Allyn of Baltimore. The acquaintance thus formed soon ripened into a lasting and deep-rooted love, and on July 6, 1852, the young couple were united in holy wedlock by the Rev. A. Webster of Baltimore. (See Baltimore Sun, July 7, 1852, p. 2, col. 4; Baltimore Clipper, July 8, 1852, p. 3, col. 1.)

Five children were born of this union, two sons and three daughters, all of whom reached maturity. One of the sons and two of the daughters survived both of their parents, even though the latter had married early in life and survived to extreme old age. Mrs. Volck in fact died in the year of their golden wedding.

After graduation Dr. Volck continued the practice of dentistry, and in 1855 his office and home were at 75 Lexington street, now in the shopping centre of the metropolis of Maryland, but then near the edge of the growing town. By 1858 his office and home had been transferred to 121 N. Charles street, and it was his Charles street abode that was to become famous in later years when the really important epoch of his life was destined to occur.

About the year 1859 Dr. Volck removed his family to Catonsville, where he purchased a large country place on Ingleside Avenue about half a mile north of the Frederick Turnpike. This place lay to the west of the avenue, with which it was connected by a long lane, and of late years it has been the residence of the Gieske family.

Having acquired this suburban property, he was able to indulge in fuller measure than before his artistic tastes by the planting out of large fruit trees removed from Druid Hill Park at the time of its purchase by the City of Baltimore from the Rogers family, by the establishing of a small deer preserve, and in similar extravagant ways.

He continued, however, to maintain his city office and residence for some years, and thus was enabled to enjoy the pleasures of both modes of living.

Soon after he had established himself in Catonsville the Civil War broke out in all its fury, and Dr. Volck at once threw himself into the contest on the side of the Confederacy with all the enthusiasm of his ardent soul. He did not, however, enlist in the Southern army, but rather took it upon himself to serve the cause in many other ways, as will appear below:

"He espoused the Confederate cause at its incipency, and was a special agent of the Confederate Government, scorning any pay. He personally conducted across the Potomac River in a private boat artisans, skilled mechanics and men seeking service in the Confederate Army. Strange to say, he was never apprehended. Money which he had made by his profession and varied talents, he invested in Confederate bonds, feeling confident of the success of the cause, so at the end of the War he was absolutely cleaned out, having left to him only the memory of his deeds, which he was of too modest a nature to dilate upon." (See letter of Major Wm. M. Pegram, Aug. 16, 1915.)

Dr. Volck frequently ran the blockade into Virginia as the carrier of dispatches, and also often had Confederate soldiers concealed in his house on Charles street, which served as a rendezvous for Southern sympathizers.

In this attitude he was upheld by a great many of his German compatriots in Baltimore, who commonly sided with the Confederacy during those four trying years.

And indeed at one time he came under the suspicion of the Federal authorities and lived in daily fear of arrest.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CATONSVILLE BIOGRAPHIES:

A SERIES OF PERSONAL SKETCHES

BY

GEORGE C. KEIDEL, PH. D.

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IV. DR. ADALBERT J. VOLCK. (Con.)

On April 19, 1861, a Massachusetts regiment in marching through the streets of Baltimore from President Street Station to Camden Station was attacked by an angry mob of Southern sympathizers.

About two weeks after this event Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, after several interviews with Gen. Winfield S. Scott at Washington, was ordered to seize and hold the junction of the Washington branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad with the main line leading westward to Harper's Ferry. Accordingly Gen. Butler with the Sixth Massachusetts' Regiment seized the viaduct at the Relay House and put in position a battery of light artillery.

About a week later he loaded a portion of his force on a train and started in the direction of Harper's Ferry. But this was only a ruse, and the train soon reversed its engine and backed down to Baltimore, reaching Camden Station just at nightfall. Meeting with no opposition the troops quietly marched to Federal Hill in South Baltimore during a violent thunder-storm.

Gen. Butler at once wrote out a proclamation to the citizens of Baltimore, and had it published in a special edition of the next morning's Clipper. In it he laid down rules and regulations for the military government of the city. The seizure here described took place on May 13, 1861. (See Butler's Book, Boston, 1892, pp. 223-239.)

These two bloodless military exploits greatly incensed the Southern sympathizers of Baltimore, and Dr. Volck as one of of the most ardent among them quickly turned the batteries of his artistic wit against General Butler and at her Northern leaders then prominently before the public.

The almost immediate result was a series of cartoons which have come to some fame as the years have passed. In a letter written by Dr. Volck to the Library of Congress on January 11, 1905, he thus refers to them in a manner which will serve to authoritatively establish the date of their production:

"The Butler series was made early in the war at the time of Butler's occupation of Baltimore; the plates of this were sold some years after the war to a Boston firm, and, to my great annoyance, were, with an altered letterpress, published for political purposes, at the time of Butler's candidacy for Governor of Massachusetts."

These are the portraits probably which were issued in Boston in a pamphlet of which a copy was acquired by the Boston Public Library in 1874 soon after General Butler had been a candidate for the office mentioned above. This publication is thus described in their card catalogue:

Exploits, Ye, of ye distinguished attorney and general Benjamin Franklin Butler (Bombastes Furioso Buncombe.)

A series of burlesque, pen and ink sketches. Baltimore 186, 2 pp., 6 plates 89.

Their attribution to Dr. Volck is confirmed by an indistinct monogram which is found on some of the plates, and which is the same as the monogram on many of Dr. Volck's other artistic works. (See official letter from the Librarian, Horace G. Wadlin, August 17, 1915.)

In the Baltimore Sun of March 31, 1912, three of this series of portraits were published with the following titles: The Knight of the Rueful Countenance (A. Lincoln.) Gen. Butler as Simon Tappertit, and Fremont as Sam Tappertat. These were made from part of a set owned by Dr. A. Duval Atkinson, 918 North Charles street, Baltimore. -

Owing to the date of publication the following description from a standard bibliographical work refers no doubt to the original edition issued in Baltimore during the war by Dr. Volck himself:

Ye Exploits of Ye Distinguished Attorney and General B. F. B. (Bombastes Furioso Buncombe.) n. d. Imp. 8 vo. 2 plates. A series of "Pen and Ink Sketches." (See Joseph Sabin, A Dictionary of Books relating to America, Volume III, New York, 1870, p. 179.)

There is also a series of twelve comic etchings representing General Butler which are evidently the handiwork of the same artist, and which were published in a small volume thus described:

The American Cyclops, the Hero of New Orleans, and Spoiler of Silver Spoons. Dubbed LL. D. By Pasquino. Baltimore: Kelly & Piet, 1868. 12 mo. 27 pp. illustrated.

The pseudonym of the author of this comic poem has been ascertained to stand for James Fairfax McLaughlin, and many of the etchings show Dr. Volck's well-known monogram, the same as that referred to previously. These illustrations bear the following titles:

Bombastes at the Mass Military Academy, Bombastes preparing for his Crusade to New Orleans, occupation of ye wicked city of Baltimore, Conquest of Ye Pump, Battle at Great Bethel, Bombastes is ubiquitous, Ye Vow, Bombastes burneth ye churches, Bombastes conqueror of New Orleans, Bombastes encountering ye bricklayer, Bombastes captures Fort Fisher by means of a Patent Volcano, and Home.

There are copies of this work in the Library of Congress and in the Boston Public Library, and they are well worth inspection.

It is very much to be hoped that some one competent for such a task will make a comprehensive study of Dr. Volck's Butler caricatures, as they are probably deserving of a place in American history during the period of the Civil War.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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IV. DR. ADALBERT J. VOLCK. (Con.)

Doctor Volck in his trips South, both during and after the War, made the acquaintance of many of the Confederate leaders. His picture of Stonewall Jackson, taken on the field and afterwards produced on canvas is the only true portrait of that immortal chieftain. His picture of General Lee's study at the Washington and Lee University, after the War, is another sample of his marvellous work. (See letter of Major Wm. M. Pegram, Aug. 16, 1915.)

To further illustrate and substantiate the truth of these enthusiastic words of one of Dr. Volck's warmest friends there may be here quoted the complete text of the following letters from President and Mrs. Jefferson Davis to their artist friend:

"Montreal, C. E.
Sept. 5th, 1867.

Dr. Adalbert Volck.

My dear sir,

It gives me great pleasure to be able to send the accompanying photographs, and I hope that they may sometimes serve to recall us to you pleasantly. My good little maid Ellen will hand them to you, but cannot convey how very sincerely I am, Yours,

Varina Davis.

Maggie insists upon being remembered even in a postscript."

From the friendly and familiar tone of the above letter it is evident that Dr. Volck was quite intimate with the Davis family. The "Maggie" mentioned was the President's daughter, and it is of interest to add that as the original letter was cut into narrow strips (now mounted on a sheet of notepaper) the "good little maid Ellen" probably had it concealed on her person when she made the trip from Canada to Dixie with the photographs.

Of greater historical interest is the following letter from the President of the Confederate States of America himself:

"Memphis, Tenn.

1st May, 1873.

Prof. A. G. Volk.

My dear Sir,

Please accept my thanks for the Photograph of your picture of Genl. Lee as he appeared in his study at Lexington, Va. a short time before his decease. I had not seen Genl. Lee for some time before the date of this picture and his failing health must have materially altered his appearance.

It is very interesting to see the room as it was when the great Soldier occupied it, for duties widely differing from those the discharge of which had made his name illustrious among the nations.

The object to which you propose generously to devote your time and talents, must be an additional claim to the consideration of all who would preserve the memory of purity, patriotism and heroic virtue, as typified by the Statue of Stonewall Jackson.

Wishing you success in this undertaking and in all things prosperity and happiness. I am truly yours,

Jefferson Davis."

The above letter would seem to possess historical value as evidencing the high regard in which the President of the Confederacy held his chief lieutenants in the conduct of the desperate struggle which was to eventually end in defeat.

The origin of the portrait of Stonewall Jackson so warmly praised by Major Pegram above has thus been described by the artist in a letter to a personal friend:

"The drawing from which this hasty etching was made is from life. It was on one of my blockade running trips not long after the second battle of Bull Run. I had crossed the Potomac above Ball's Bluff and, carrying important papers, was making my way across the country to get to a certain place the name of which I have forgotten, but where I knew of a person who would have me pushed forward. I came quite unexpectedly upon a camp and not meeting any picquets I walked right through it. On the other side of the tents and shelters I saw some officers talking together, amongst them Jackson. As I seemed unobserved I pulled out my sketchbook and made what can hardly be pronounced a speaking likeness of the General. I was almost done with it when one of the officers pointed me out and Genl. Jackson looked around at me with a pleasant smile and turned away. I had, however, to show what I had done for some officer and also prove myself to be a friend. I was sent on horseback with a guide.

A. J. Volck.

Balto., April 20, '98.

The etching was made immediately after my return home 3 or 4 days afterwards, one or two prints taken and for some reason now forgotten, probably one of my frequent arrests, the plate was mislaid. Some 5 or 6 years ago I saw an account of this print, said to be the only one in existence, described in one of the monthly magazines (I think the Century.) This caused me to look through some old rubbish dating from war times and I found the plate, from which the prints were taken. I am sorry the plate has again disappeared. V." (See McHenry Howard, Recollections of a Maryland Confederate Soldier and Staff Officer under Johnston, Jackson and Lee, Baltimore, 1914, pp. 131-132, with the etching.)

Another note left by the artist in manuscript form states that it was declared by Mrs. Jackson to be the best portrait of her husband that had been made.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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IV. DR. ADALBERT J. VOLCK. (Con.)

The most famous of all Dr. Volck's artistic works is undoubtedly his series of Confederate War Etchings, which has become known far and near, and which has been republished a number of times. As these etchings in truth deserve closer study at our hands let us begin by seeing what the artist himself had to say about them more than forty years after their conception and execution.

In a letter written by him to the Library of Congress in response to a question as to their authorship, he makes the following statements:

"The war etchings, now only existent as a fragment, were issued to subscribers only. It was intended to carry on the work while the war lasted, but having become a suspected man, and in daily fear of arrest, I made the rest of the 20 plates, extending to Lee's surrender and kept them back for issuance after peace should be re-established. At the deplorable murder of Lincoln I thought it best to go into retirement and an officious friend persuaded me to let him take the last plates (20) to England and have them printed there. They were only recovered after some years all ruined by verdigris and scratches. Feelings and times had changed much of my sentiment of the war and I had neither heart nor energy to make them over again — with one exception they cannot be called 'caricatures.' I feel the greatest regret ever to have aimed ridicule at that great and good Lincoln—outside of that the pictures represent events as truthfully as my close connections with the South enabled me to get at them. After long days, day by day, of the hardest professional work, from nightfall to far into the small hours, I worked alone on these sketches, drawing, etching and printing them myself alone. There are only 200 copies by my hand in existence.

Balto., Jan. 11, 1905.

A. J. Volck."

It would appear, therefore, that they were made originally for the artist's friends and Southern sympathizers, and that they were etched and printed by the artist himself in Baltimore. This first edition is the most beautiful one that has been issued, as it was made on Japan paper and mounted on cardboard. The artist himself says that he printed 200 sets of these etchings for subscribers only, and it would indeed be a difficult matter to attempt to trace the history of these sets during the last half century.

Suffice it to state here that there is a well-preserved copy in the Library of the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore, where it is protected by a species of portfolio. The artist had originally made thirty plates for this edition, but one of them was lost, and so only twenty-nine etchings are included in the set. With those sent to England, as stated above, a complete set would have to comprise fifty etchings; but there is no evidence at hand to show that such a set is in existence. As issued by the artist there is one additional printed page containing a table of contents, which reads as follows:

Index

to

Confederate War Etchings.

1. Worship of the North.
2. Passage Through Baltimore.
3. Writing the Emancipation Proclamation.
4. Battle in Baltimore, April 19, 1861.
5. Searching for Arms.
6. Enlistment of Sickles' Brigade, N. Y.
7. Buying a Substitute in the North during the War.
8. Marylander's Crossing the Potomac to Join the Southern Army.
9. Election in Baltimore, November, 1862.
10. Stone Blockade off Charleston, S. C.
11. Making Clothes for the Boys in the Army.
12. Slaves Concealing their Master from a Search Party.
13. Return of a Raiding Party from Pennsylvania.
14. Valiant Men "Dat Fite Mit Siegel."

15. Tracks of the Armies.
16. Formation of Guerrilla Bands.
17. Jamison's Jayhawkers.
18. Smuggling Medicines Into The South.
19. Offering of Bells to be Cast into Cannon.
20. Albert S. Johnston Crossing the Desert to Join the Southern Army.
21. Gen'l Stuart's Raid to the White House.
22. Gen'l Stuart's Return from Pennsylvania.
23. Butler's Victims of Fort St. Philip.
24. Prayer in Stonewall Jackson's Camp.
25. Counterfeit Confederate Notes Publicly Offered for Sale in the "City of Brotherly Love."
26. Free Negroes in the North.
27. Free Negroes in Hayti.
28. Cave Life in Vicksburg During the Siege.
29. Vicksburg Canal.

Up to this point the history of these etchings appears to be perfectly plain; but when the bibliographers began to take notice of them, and when various publishers reissued them great confusion arose, which it is at present impossible to wholly disentangle.

The first such notice published seems to have been the following, which is found in Joseph Sabin, A Dictionary of Books relating to America, from its discovery to the present time, Volume II, New York, 1869, p. 201:

"Blada (N), pseudon. Sketches from the Civil War in North America, 1861, '62, '63. By V. Blada, London. 1863. 4 to."

A series of forty-five sketches, chiefly of scenes in the Confederate Army, really published in Baltimore. Only twelve copies were struck off for friends, when the plates were destroyed for fear of exposing the artist, who is a German dentist in Baltimore."

No copy of this edition has been located, but all of the statements made in the above description and note can hardly be correct, for they are evidently in direct variance with the assertions of the artist himself as quoted above.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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IV. DR. ADALBERT J. VOLCK. (Con.)

Another widely variant account of Dr. Volck's Confederate etchings is from the pen of Murat Halstead, and reads as follows:

"Dr. Volck was an agent of the Confederate government and to get his sketches he repeatedly ran the blockade. The daring artist finally was arrested by the United States government and confined in Fort McHenry. The sketches were etched and a few copies printed intended for private distribution, after which the original copper plates were shipped to England for safety and left with De la Rue & Company of London. Owing to neglect, the plates were rendered useless by dampness and verdigris, and never were re-etched. (See Historic Illustrations of the Confederacy, in *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, 1890, pp. 496-507.)

The same writer comments on the spirit animating this series of etchings as follows:

"We find these etchings full of the sharpest scorn and of rancorous hatred, referring to the early rather than the later period of the war. There is a reason for this that should be well understood. The northern and southern people were taught in the course of the grappling in deadly conflict of their gigantic armies, to respect each other. Before the war they were very ill-acquainted, and it was the habit of each section to disparage the other... That which permits and indeed commands the publication of the Confederate etchings, which must be regarded as a vivid and characteristic contribution to history, is the current patent truth that they relate to a state of things that has passed away.

It would be unwise not to be sensible that there are sectional matters still open for settlement, controversies that would be very exciting, even infuriating yet to come; but of the feeling that the works of Dr. Volck represent there is so little left that they may be regarded with a compassionate sympathy and considered purely as history and art. The intemperance displayed here, the unreflecting remorseless fury that is seen, did not endure to Appomattox. The war was a great teacher. It taught the people of the country north and south to respect themselves and each other. The old will testify that these strange and sinister sketches are true to their time; that they are faithful as the photography of battle fields, of one of the developments of warfare; and the young should temper their surprise that such things are historical, with the sober meditations of a genial philosophy."

There may furthermore be cited a few of Murat Halstead's descriptions of the etchings as appended to the main portion of his article:

Worship of the North.

This is the most elaborate etching of all in the series. It shows the public men of the north worshipping, as an idol, a negro on the Chicago platform, the corner of which is a carved head of Lincoln.

Passing Through Baltimore.

Lincoln on his way to the inauguration at Washington, fearful of his life, appears at the partly open door of a freight car to ascertain the cause of a horrible noise and finds that it is nothing worse than a cat on top of a hydrant. The car is labelled "Freight-bones; capacity, 000."

Battle in Baltimore, April 19, 1861.

A spirited street scene in which the Baltimoreans are assailing the Sixth Massachusetts regiment.

Making Clothes for the Boys in the Army.

A touching scene in a southern home. The aged mother is at the flax wheel, spinning the flax into thread; one of the daughters is at the loom, weaving the thread into cloth; while the other daughter is making of the cloth, garments for the sons and brothers in the army.

Slaves Concealing their Master from a Search Party.

The master stands behind the open kitchen door, cocked pistol in hand, while the slave woman directs the armed and mounted party before the door down the road. A young negro boy sits at the hearth, holding a skillet, and endeavoring to reassure a badly frightened younger brother.

Return of a Raiding Party from Pennsylvania.

A very pretty study of animal life. The officers, mounted, are directing the soldiers, who are driving the herds of cattle and swine which they have confiscated in the rich farming country of southern Pennsylvania. The white-topped wagons are rolling along filled with forage.

Tracks of the Armies.

The husband returns to what once had been his home, to find the house demolished and the dead body of his wife among the ruins. The cradle is overturned and the child gone. A vulture sits by the chimney, eager to descend on the dead. The grief-stricken man clasps his hand to his forehead, and staggers in amid the desolation. The leaf of an open book which lies on the floor says, 'By their deeds ye shall know them.'

Jayhawkers.

A gang of marauders are galloping through a hamlet, burning and murdering as they go. The leader has swung over his saddle in front of him a young girl whom he is carrying off. A man is aiming his gun at two women who are fleeing across the field.

Butler's Prisoners in Fort St. Philip.

A striking scene through the open Sally port of Fort St. Philip, captured by Farragut and Butler in April, 1862. Citizens of New Orleans with ball and chain fastened to their ankles are at work digging and are being guarded by colored Union soldiers. In the distance General Butler is seen escorting two women, supposed Union sympathizers.

Prayer in Stonewall Jackson's Camp.

This is one of the most effective etchings in the series. A group of soldiers led by Stonewall Jackson are engaged in prayer.



Another phrase of Dr. Volck's many-sided artistic career was his notable connection with amateur theatricals in Baltimore shortly after the close of the Civil War.

"In the days of the Old Wednesday Club, of which he was one of the originators, he was sui generis, in many respects its soul, as he was the only one who had the specific talent for designing and perfecting features of the greatest moment to the club and its guests on special occasions."

"Many years ago, at a performance at the Academy of Music for some charitable cause, he actually outdid himself. He portrayed on the stage, within a large frame a perfect portrait of Gerome's *Duel* after the *Masquerade*, so superb in all its detail, the immense audience would not believe it was not the real picture, until some of the figures walked about. He posed on the same occasion a tableau called *The Amazement of the Artist over his Own Work*. Two of the Society's most beautiful girls, twins, posed the one as his model, and the other within the frame, he standing off with easel and paint brush in hand. Again the audience was skeptical, and would not believe the fact until the model raised her hand, and the picture bowed to the audience."

"Then he had a large number of Baltimore's beauties posing inside frames as portraits of themselves, all recognized by their friends. This brought down the house in applause. Who could have devised and portrayed such things as he? I don't know the man." (See letter of Major Wm. M. Pegram, Aug. 16, 1915.)

At one time Dr. Volck opened a studio as a portrait painter, and executed in oil likenesses of many notable people. At a later time he also executed bas-relief portraits in silver of Professor Basil L. Gildersleeve of the Johns Hopkins University, and of Edward V. Valentine, the well-known sculptor of Richmond, Va.

On the occasion of Dr. Volck's seventieth birthday a complimentary banquet was given him by the Association of Dental Surgeons, of which he was at that time the president. The occasion was a happy one for the artist-dentist, for around the board were his close friends in his profession who rose in turn to pay the "Nestor of Dentistry in Baltimore" a tribute of respect.

When the fitting time arrived Dr. C. E. Duck, toastmaster, proposed "Health and Happiness to Our Guest," to which Dr. Volck responded as follows:

"It was such a surprise to me when I was told that I was to be the recipient of such an honor as this banquet represents that I could not, and cannot now, understand by what merit I should be entitled to it. I can only see in it the effort of that pleasant brotherly tone that has prevailed among the members of this association since its beginning, and of sympathy for a man who has borne the burden of professional labor for so many years without (may I be permitted to say?) ever having disgraced his profession.

"Men now and then have disturbed the peace of the profession by their selfish ambitions, but I have never seen anything of this among us here. There is not a blot or blemish on the brotherly union of the members of this association. I have never met them but to feel at home among them; never met them but my stock of knowledge was increased; never left them without a renewed feeling of respect for them, without feeling that they respected me. From my heart, gentlemen, I thank you for this honor."

The toast, "The Life and Work of Dr. Volck," was responded to by Dr. Richard Grady, the founder of the association, who said: On their own merits modest men are dumb. We are here tonight to show our feeling for the Nestor of the dental profession in Baltimore. We join in making memorable the seventieth anniversary of the birth of our president, Dr. Adalbert J. Volck.

Born in a foreign land, the career at first planned for him was other than the scenes in which it has been cast. Had he chosen art for his life work, instead of dentistry, there can be little doubt that he would have made his mark. The branch of art for which he is most widely known, perhaps, is his fine work in metals. When the work of the day is over, when his lost patient is gone, then the work of his heart and soul begins. Midnight usually finds him in his laboratory, with the tools of the silversmith in his hands. In his professional and private life he is revered by his colleagues and loved by his friends."

"Dr. Volck as a Dentist" was responded to by Dr. C. C. Harris, who said: "In 1851 Dr. Volck opened an office in Baltimore, from which time he has enjoyed a rich and distinguished practice. Dr. Volck was the first person to insert a porcelain filling. It has always been a happy characteristic of Dr. Volck to lend assistance and give the benefit of his vast experience to brother practitioners. In this way he has drawn around him a coterie of warm professional friends."

Then followed "Memories of Dr. Volck's Boyhood," written by Rev. Johannes A. Oertel, and read by Dr. C. J. Grieves. Dr. Oertel "counts it a singular good fortune, after more than half a century, to renew a friendship calling up so many dearly cherished ties of home, of kindred and associations in the person of one, honored alike for his genius as an artist and his sterling qualities as a man."

"Dr. Volck as a Man, Ever Ready to Help the Afflicted and the Poor," written by Gen. James Howard, was read by Dr. H. A. Wilson. "Dr. Volck as an Artist in Every Sense of the Word," written by Thomas Hedian, was read by Dr. M. G. Sykes, and a poem, written for the occasion by Col. W. M. Pegram was read by Dr. W. A. Mills. (Adapted from Baltimore Sun, April 15, 1898, p. 7, col. 1.)

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

CATONSVILLE BIOGRAPHIES:

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BY

GEORGE C. KEIDEL, PH. D.

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IV. DR. ADALBERT J. VOLCK. (Con.)

A pleasing picture of the artist at the age of eighty surrounded by the evidences of his own handiwork was drawn a few years ago by a writer in a local newspaper, which reads about as follows:

To understand the breadth and versatility of the master's genius one needs to visit him in his home at 1601 Linden Avenue, Baltimore, a home which in its mingled simplicity and artistic wealth recalls the descriptions of the abodes of his great predecessors in Nuremberg. In the wooden frame of the mirror over the drawing-room mantel are inserted large medallions of beaten silver illustrative of the song of the Nibelungen. Perched upon each end of the mantel shelf are two big carved owls, which once adorned the mantel of the Old Wednesday Club. Scattered about upon the walls everywhere are delightfully characteristic sketches of members of the club, with scenes from the different performances in which they took part executed in pen and ink with such fineness of touch as to resemble etchings. Also on the walls are oil paintings and charcoal drawings, while in a cupboard in the dining-room is an exquisite collection of hand-painted porcelain, the work of the same artistic hand. Nearby under a glass case stands a tiny carving in ivory which he introduces as a monument to a favorite horse "Old Jim." The statuette is upon a pedestal of ebony adorned with delicately carved minute hunting accoutrements of ivory.

It is upstairs, however, in the big, sunny back room he terms his workshop that the artist best reveals himself, for it is here he follows his favorite pursuit, which, like Tubal-Cain of old, is that of a worker in metals. Here he does his own casting and smelting by a process first discovered in Paris and only recently introduced in this country, by which the design issues completed from the mold without further finishing touches. Surrounded by the implements for the work of his heart, the artist forgets for the moment his shrinking from publicity and shows you all sorts of wonderful treasures in beaten silver or repousse work, which he tells you

means "push and repush," scenes from fairyland, folklore, poetry, horses' heads, foxes' head, wreathed in tiny roses of silver, all of such perfect and exquisite design and workmanship as causes one to regard the small smelting furnace as the veritable lamp of Aladdin, which the owner had but to rub for the most beautiful treasures to appear.

One sees also a superb terrapin set in silver, of which the ladle has the bowl fashioned like an oyster shell, while small diamond-backs climb up the handle amid masses of seaweed. Other characteristic pieces are a hunting dagger with handle and scabbard of wrought silver, and a massive tankard and drinking-cup of the old German pattern adorned with scenes of the chase.

Very few of these beautiful conceptions unfortunately become known in Baltimore, for Dr. Volck shares to a degree the common fate of those who are not without honor, save in their own country. The majority of the choicer bits are largely snapped up by connoisseurs in Washington, Philadelphia and New York. (Adapted from Baltimore American, June 20, 1909, pt. 2, p. 16, cols. 1-4.)

The last important piece of silver-smithing executed by the artist was a memorial shield to Southern women in 1909. It was dedicated by the venerable craftsman to the women of the South "as a continual reminder to those of the present generation of the splendid example of self-sacrifice, endurance and womanly virtues displayed during the war between the states, and which still exists as an important factor in making the New South greater and more prosperous than ever." These are his own words in explanation of the thought that inspired him while at work on this beautiful creation of the imagination. (See Baltimore American, June 13, 1909, pt. 2, p. 10, cols. 4-5.)

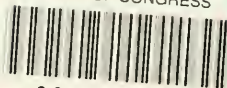
But old age with its infirmities was then already upon him; the last few years of his life were sad ones, he having been afflicted with partial paralysis in his legs which made it difficult for him to get about among his friends. The oldest and most loyal among them stood by him, however, and prevented him from lapsing into that state in which he could only "chew the cud of sweet and bitter memories."

The end came on March 26, 1912, from the infirmities of age after he had been confined to his bed for some three weeks in his home on Linden Avenue. There were with him at the time his two surviving daughters, Miss Fannie B. Volck and Mrs. F. H. Falkenburg. His only surviving son, Howard A. Volck of Kansas City, Mo., had paid his old father a visit but a few days before.

The funeral took place from his residence on March 29, the services being conducted by Rev. Dr. J. S. B. Hodges, rector emeritus of Old St. Paul's P. E. Church, a personal friend of many years standing. The pallbearers were Major William M. Pegram, Dr. William A. Mills, Dr. M. Gist Sykes, and Messrs. Morton Schaffer, Edward Ingle and William F. Thommen. Burial of the mortal remains was made in Loudon Park Cemetery, Baltimore, in a lot situated about sixty feet west of the Stonewall Jackson monument he had helped to erect many years before in the old Confederate lot so well known to visitors.

In brief conclusion of this personal sketch may we be allowed to quote a statement once made to Dr. William A. Mills by Cardinal Gibbons concerning Dr. Volck to the effect "that he was the most universally learned man he ever knew." (See letter dated Aug. 30, 1915.)

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